ENVELOPE SERIES

VOLUME LIII SPRING, 1950 NUMBER 1

YOUR MISSIONARY MATERIALS FOR 1950-1951

The Near East

Toward a Christian Community

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A QUARTERLY

ENVELOPE SERIES

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Thomas K. Thompson, *Stewardship Secretary*

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DEAR READER:

I've just been going over a batch of manuscripts for the new Books of the Year on the themes of our Christian World Mission and want to share my enthusiasm with you. It seems to me this year's themes are tailor-made for us of the Congregational Christian Churches.

For the world emphasis—the *Near East!* For some churches they're just Bible Lands; for us, they're the lands into which long years ago the American Board sent its early missionaries —those courageous, persistent men and women who traveled over the very territory made famous by Paul, to try to win a new, revitalized faith in Christ in lands that had fallen under Moslem domination. Pliny Fiske, Levi Parsons, Cyrus Hamlin, Corinne Shattuck and many other pioneers and martyrs witnessed to their faith in Christ Jesus even to the death in their effort to win the Moslem people to accept His Lordship.

From that day to this, Turkey and Asia Minor have been considered "the territory of the American Board" in the Councils of Churches. Our present work is unique and one which could be carried by no other Board than ours. *Margaret Blemker* is the person to tell us about it, too. She has served in ancient Smyrna, now called Izmir, as teacher in our Girls' School. She came home in 1948 and is now the youngest Field Secretary of the American Board with special responsibility for work in the Near East. Her delightful personality wins more and more friends as she becomes better known in the churches and she brings a refreshing contact with the Evangelical and Reformed Churches in which she was brought up and in which she received her preparation for the work of an American Board missionary. On pages 7-17 she has pointed up our own part in this Near East study. Every leader will wish to read her interpretation and, in studying the books later, to apply this concretely that

our churches may be as well-informed as possible.

Equally *ours* is the new community emphasis on the Home side—*Toward a Christian Community*. Some 16 years ago the A.M.A. division of Home Missions began to shift its emphasis from the building and support of fine schools and colleges in the South to the fitting of the disadvantaged peoples whom they had been teaching, to take their share in the community about them, to live as well-adjusted members of that community and serve it in the name of Christ. Cotton Valley, Bricks, Pleasant Hill—the new Community Centers are today evidence of that shift. As it relates to this Home theme, the March *Missionary Herald* with its emphasis on "The Building of the Christian Community" is deserving of our attention. Specially featured in this issue and of particular interest in our study is the write-up on Delmo Communities by John J. Kessler, which brings us close to the coöperative community life at work among migrants and sharecroppers in southeast Missouri. ENVELOPE SERIES will give further attention to this theme in a later issue.

What shall we do with the Books? That seems to be our perennial problem in Congregational Christian Churches. On pages 18-23 we have given as careful an evaluation and review of these as possible. There are fascinating books and for all ages, yet we have, unlike many denominations, had in the past relatively few real Study programs and still fewer actual classes where the adult and young people's books are used. This year, therefore, lest we lose this unusually fine opportunity, we urge the Missionary Committee of each church to devise interesting, different ways of getting these splendidly written and attractive books before our people, with the following suggestions:

1. *Get them read* and by the right people. Get someone with a flair for advertising, some who are not the usual "missionary people" to devise clever posters or other clever publicity points for making them known.

2. *Get them reviewed* and used in program meetings. The women are constantly doing this; a few pastors present them at various mid-week occasions through the year; some Young People's groups use them as a basis for planned programs. All good ideas! And why not use good reviews in the "Women's Circles," or at luncheons or dinners.

3. *Get them studied,* if only by a Committee anxious to make the emphasis vivid. Some churches have a series of four studies for the Church School teachers and officers; others present them to the Committee on the Christian World Mission which then finds ways of making them known.

Make these two themes in every sense an emphasis this year. Collect and look over as much of the material as possible for all ages. They will make excellent background and illustrations for *Our Christian World Mission,* for the *giving appeals, Every Member Canvass* and *special days.* The Supplementary Materials on pages 26-32 are of such a nature that you can't afford to have your people miss them. Notice especially the two splendid brochures describing our own work in detail. These should be in the hands of any program-planning committee and available to leaders of all ages.

For the World Service emphasis in our Church Schools we have a "new deal." After years of planning and study of the possibility, we are integrating Missionary Education throughout the entire church school course for both the Pilgrim Series and the Closely-Graded Lessons. Actual teaching materials are written into the units for the various ages. The magazines will carry supplementary material and the Manual giving the worship programs will provide the same kind of concentration that has been possible through the World Service Plan. There will be special projects of service just as heretofore and again written into the materials. There will be special packets of resource material. Some of the detail of this is indicated on pages 24-25. Be sure your people realize that we're not dropping our interest

in missions but relating it even more closely to the total Christian Education of our boys and girls and young people.

So I say that this year's books and materials are indispensable for our churches! They are vivid in their message and with many a sentence that hits us where we live. One or two from a manuscript by Fred D. Wentzel will point up what I want to say to you, our readers, as I open this new issue of ENVELOPE SERIES.

One way in which Jesus interpreted his mission was to say that he came to "work." "My Father," he told his disciples, "worketh hitherto, and I work" . . . God is at work in your community, tireless, undismayed, undefeatable. You do not know his purposes fully, but this you can know with certainty—he blesses the pure in heart, the humble, the meek, the merciful; he gives strength and rejoicing to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, who seek peace and pursue it, who take risks for the sake of justice and brotherhood. . . .

When you desire bread and health and freedom and equality for all your neighbors, it is God who stirs the desire and gives you no peace until you work with him to bring these good things to the whole community. By a hundred signs, he keeps telling you that he is not less the Father of your neighbor than he is your Father, and that your neighbor is Everyman. . . . One of the words God speaks to us all with more and more weighty emphasis is this—*to preaching and teaching, to worship and praise, we must add the costly redeeming deed.* When the peoples of the world, from the Far East to the far West, ask for bread and brotherhood and beauty, we must work with God to see that they have bread and brotherhood and beauty. . . . He, the Worker, invites us to labor for him through the dedicated fellowship that we call the church, so that in every community people may love him with all their hearts and minds and their neighbors as themselves, and thus attain fullness of life.*

May the year 1950-1951 be a year of inspiration and new conviction and "redeeming deeds" in your church.

Yours in Christ's service,

RUTH ISABEL SEABURY

* From *Once There Were Two Churches,* by Fred Wentzel, by permission of Friendship Press.

AND TWENTY MINUTES FOR "TOLERANS"

By MARGARET R. BLEMKER

A week in the country after days of busy teaching is anticipated eagerly in any land. We were in high spirits as we set out to spend a November holiday on a model government farm in southwestern Turkey, one of fifteen such experiments carried on in a successful attempt to improve agricultural economy. The husband of a graduate of one of our American Board girls' schools was heading the farm, and their invitation had been most cordial both to former teachers and to newcomers like me, a short-term teacher at our American Collegiate Institute in Izmir, Turkey.

The train on that joyous Monday holiday took us to a town away from the busy seaport of Izmir where after a night in the homes of some of our students we were ready and eager for the seven o'clock bus the next morning. Connections were scheduled so that we would arrive that evening at our farm destination where we would have to do nothing but relax and rest until Friday noon. But the bus driver had decided to observe his holiday on Tuesday instead of on the official government holiday, Monday—and his was the only bus to the interior until Wednesday! Our student hostesses had to come to our rescue for another day.

No modern streamlined bus was ours the next morning on the rough roads of the Anatolian hills—progress was as slow as it was interesting. Every long climb brought a stop for water for the steaming radiator. Pauses at village coffee houses for refreshment were long enough for fellow-passengers to greet old friends and for us to imbibe the charm of village market days. The driver seemed to be the mail man as well as the news commentator for houses along the way. At one of the frequent

stops to pick up passengers, two stalwart hunters came aboard. Shortly thereafter the driver announced that he was going partridge hunting with them for half an hour!

The new green of the Anatolian hillside after the drought of the summer was inspiring to any but waiting farm visitors. Finally at two o'clock we reached the junction where we discovered that our next bus had left as scheduled at twelve. There was nothing to do again but wait and spend the night at the village inn, somewhat a reminder of inns of ancient lore, although cars were now kept in the central court with donkeys and horses.

The next morning as we were trying to decide whether to turn back or continue, we found a truck going in our general direction and the driver was glad to sell seats. Beside me on the bench in the back of the truck an old policeman handed me a lemon, a product of that section of the country, indicating with a cordial smile that I might want to smell it in protection from the gas fumes. Huddled on the floor of the truck with her kerchief drawn over her face as a veil in the presence of men, a tiny old village woman handed this American an apple as her way of saying, "Welcome to our country." I was sorry that I had no little gift to repay her welcome in a language that needs no interpreter.

By sunset on that Thursday the truck brought us to a town with a lovely lake, a calming influence as we hunted for a bit of supper and the police helpfully sought further transportation. With two hours to wait for a truck from the farm, we made our way to the Halk Evi, the community house found in every town; people must have a meeting place if they are to share in democratic government. Soon the village mayor came to welcome us with the delicious cups of Turkish coffee. As he talked, in Turkish to be translated to us novices by a more veteran teacher, he raised our hopes of reaching our destination when he said, "Well, it will take you thirty minutes to get to

the first village, and fifteen minutes to get to the next; and if you allow twenty minutes for *Tolerans,* you'll get there by ten o'clock."

"Twenty minutes for Tolerans"—that was the keynote we had needed. We had started out for a week in the country on a city schedule—and we hadn't allowed time for slow progress on interior roads. We hadn't allowed time for *tolerance* during interminable delays. "Tolerans," or tolerance, meant not only forbearance—but patience and kindness. It meant taking plenty of time to enjoy luxuriant orange groves, pine forests, and green hills—time for helping others along the way—time for many stops of friendliness and welcome. "Tolerans" meant true, unhurried fellowship and brotherly love.

We have not soon forgotten the lesson in "tolerans" from our village friends in the interior. And it is a lesson many of our Congregational friends learned long ago. No word typifies better the work of our American Board in the Near East in the past or offers a more worthy keynote for the future.

Our American Board representatives went to the Bible lands of the Near East in 1820 "to see what could be done for Jews, pagans, Mohammedans, and Christians"—to Palestine, Syria, to Asia Minor in the area of Paul's seven churches, to Greece where also Paul's first missionary journeys were made, throughout the vast Turkish empire. With printing press, with desire to educate as well as to preach, zealous to deepen the spiritual life of the old churches, consecrated to the service of all in the spirit of Christ, our missionaries continued through wars, persecutions, massacres, and the varying vicissitudes which fill the history of that part of the world. The early history is not less than thrilling! High tribute to all our early work here is summarized in the words of the Earl of Shaftesbury: "I do not believe that in the history of diplomacy, or in the history of any negotiations carried on between man and man, we can find any-

thing equal to the wisdom, the soundness, and the pure evangelical truth of the body of men who constitute this mission."

Difficulties have lain not only in the distant past. Twenty-seven years ago—after almost a century—many people felt that the work in our largest Near East Mission, that of Turkey, was finished when a nationalistic program and stringent regulations accompanied the founding of the Turkish Republic. In the attempt to throw off the old to enable the new nation better to take its place in a modern world, the state was secularized and the teaching of the Mohammedan religion and all religions was forbidden. There can be no such thing as a secularized mission, but our missionaries remained. One of them wrote, "Christianity is fundamentally not an ecclesiastical order nor even a formal doctrine, but a spirit and a life, and can be communicated in its essential values by the living of the Christian life and by service in the spirit of Christ." Our religion can be lived as well as preached and taught. Thus began a new kind of mission. We continued to give our friendship—understanding, self-giving friendship—as Turkey followed her quest for a new and better life with a spirit of courage and hope. Our representatives and the American Board had "Tolerans"—patience to let Christ grow through life and speak through integrity.

And so the Christian church remained in this new nation into which all forms of westernization were pouring with breath-taking rapidity—all science and modern technology, Hollywood films, automobiles, airplanes, bubble gum, education for all, new freedom for women. Our "westernization" is there—and whatever happens in our part of the world gets keen attention. Perhaps it is not even fair to tell the story of the slow and interminable bus trip in interior Turkey if the reader is not aware of the modernity of the larger cities with their wide boulevards, streamlined buses and taxis, radio and telegraph communications.

What are we doing today in **Turkey?** *We are pioneering*

with the Turkish people *in education*. Four schools are filled to capacity while many eager applicants are turned away: the *American Academy for Girls in Scutari* (the Asiatic side of Istanbul), the *American Collegiate Institute for Girls in Izmir* (Smyrna), the *American College for Boys in Tarsus,* and the *American School for Boys in Talas*. Famed Robert College and Istanbul College for Women, now independent schools under the Near East College Association, stand also as worthy monuments to their founders, American Board missionaries. We have just pride in the fact that with one exception all the schools of the well-known Near East College Association started under American Board auspices.

The young Turkish leaders of tomorrow, now of the ages 12 to 20, are coming first in order to learn English. In English, from textbooks used in schools in the United States, they study literature and grammar, science, mathematics, psychology and philosophy, home economics and manual training. Horizons widen rapidly today for the young student who can read and speak English.

And they come also "because there is a difference." The parents of one of the young girls have said that they sent their daughter to our school because we pay attention to character education. We are concerned about the individual—what she eats, how she studies, how she follows health rules, how she spends her leisure time. She plays basketball, tennis, volleyball —not to win, but for the sheer joy of activity. The student hikes; she tours her country to understand it and its problems. She helps others—in nursery schools for children of factory workers, in children's wards in hospitals. She finds she can give of herself as well as her alms as she early takes a place in home and community life. For the Turkish girl such opportunity is entirely new—and the young Turkish lads find similar and greater opportunities in a new democracy which today and tomorrow looks to its educated youth.

A thousand students are in our four schools in Turkey today because the Congregational Christians have had the courage to pioneer in this new kind of mission work. What we are doing grows significant because what is happening in Turkey is significant. "Turkey is a social and economic testing ground closely watched by the whole Arab world. British and American development is currently beyond us," an Arab has said, according to a report in *Fortune* magazine in 1947, "but what Turkey does today, we can do tomorrow. . . ."

No greater service is rendered than through *our ministry of healing* in two clinics at Talas and Adana and in our hospital at Gaziantep. Patients who have walked long miles through the night are at the doors as early as four o'clock lest they be among those who must be turned away as the day ends. Dr. Haas, with eight national nurses and an orderly, served 11,603 patients and gave 29,087 treatments last year. Dr. Nute, by jeep and on horseback, made long trips to 848 patients in outlying villages and treated 5,993 patients in the Talas clinic in the eight months following a furlough in America. Dr. and Mrs. Dewey and their staff admitted more than 1,300 patients to the 49-bed hospital. The six student nurses at Gaziantep are pioneers in this vocation which has just barely opened for women.

A green oasis in a brown land is the garden in the compound in Mardin near the border of Iraq where the Rev. and Mrs. Raymond White work with the few churches remaining of the Assyrian Mission. Preaching, agricultural instruction, English teaching, recreation leadership, the supervising of a reading room, the furnishing of a hostel for children who could not otherwise attend the government school—all their varied *community services* offer an oasis of refreshment for minds and hearts.

Carrying on the traditions of the earliest pioneers is the *Publication Department* in Istanbul. Children are important—and children in Turkey have not had books. In 1948-1949 under the

supervision of Miss Dorothy Blatter, six books were translated from English and filled with fascinating illustrations to delight the youngest buyer. Book Week was observed and adults as well as children crowded rooms to observe what is available now through the printed page. Miss Blatter has in a new way this year carried out her slogan, "books are bridges," with the publication by the Missionary Education Movement of her book, *The Thirsty Village*.* This story of two young boys in a Lebanese village, illustrated by Miss Blatter's own sketches made in Lebanon, has been designated as the book for primary children during the Near East study year, but it will delight old and young alike.

Translations of religious books for adults are being welcomed at a time when on every hand a reawakened interest in religion is evident. The last annual report is stimulating. "For over twenty years the official government policy of secularism resulted in the virtual suppression both of religious publications and of all public discussion of religious activities. Today the door is opening. . . . The believers in the old-fashioned religious ways are especially vocal and the return to the Moslem law is being openly advocated. Many of the younger leaders of the country, therefore, feel profound disquiet in the presence of the danger of religious reaction. More than ever before in the one hundred and twenty year history of our mission the need for an interpretation of religion consistent with modern thought and modern social needs is being generally felt."

Fellowship with the remaining Armenian churches in Istanbul continues work begun a hundred years ago. A long and brave chapter of Christian history was written during these years since 1846 and the "blood of the martyrs" was again the seed of the church. During the dreadful years of persecution, as the Armenian people fled, our missionaries went with them, and so today we find our Near East Mission again in Greece and Syria

* See p. 22.

and Lebanon where earlier work had been closed in 1869 and 1870. Bulgaria also was a vital part of our Mission until 1942 when missionaries left.

Greece, a Christian country, seems an unusual place to find a Mission Board. Twenty-seven years ago when relief work was necessary among the refugee Armenians, educational privileges also were eagerly sought. In Salonica, Anatolia College, now independent but with American Board leaders, opened as a refugee college from Merzifoun, Turkey, and today trains many young men and women for leadership in Greece. *Pierce College for Girls,* recovering from the damages of war and long years of civil strife, again on its beautiful campus at the edge of Athens, last year celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. With high courage the 550 young women look to American friends for help and inspiration as they seek high school and college education.

The *Congregational Christian Service Committee* is at work in Greece and along with other services is making an unusual contribution in its classes for social welfare at Pierce College. The country offers a wide field for the *social welfare* students to put theory into practice, and a significant bit of field work is the Glyfada Model Distribution Center run by the welfare students and other American volunteer workers. The personal distribution procedure continues, but the Center is run as a store with special coupons as the medium of exchange. It demonstrates a method which preserves individual rights, human dignity, and self-respect. Here the students see Christian principles in action, and they themselves learn and fulfill the college motto: "Not to be served, but to serve." Graduates of the social welfare course are eagerly sought for employment by governmental agencies because they bring not only knowledge but a heart and spirit for service.

Twelve hundred people crowding a church service on a rainy Sunday night indicate the desire for help not alone material.

We have one minister on the field to work with the Greek and Armenian congregations who seek spiritual strengthening. A rotating "theological seminary" in which different ministers train for Christian service a group of students who cannot leave the country because they are of military age is an interesting new venture in a country about which one Greek writes, "The great struggle of our nation is to make Greece spiritual and really Christian."

In Syria and in Lebanon the American Board shares work with the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church and with leaders of Armenian and Syrian churches. In a country of political unrest and general uncertainty, miniature testing grounds of the future are *Aleppo College for Boys* and the *Aleppo High School for Girls* where 900 Christian, Moslem, and Jewish students learn to study and live and work together.

The *Near East School of Theology* in Beirut even with its small student body of 16 from Arab, Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek communities is a "fountainhead of the church's life and through the church the life of the community." Principal McMullen's annual report concludes with this challenge: "As the only academically qualified institution in this larger area for the training of the evangelical ministry we have a great and noble vocation. May we have the spiritual insight and vision to move forward courageously that we may faithfully fulfill our divinely-given commission."

The students and the churches in this area are drawn today into work with 700,000 refugees from Palestine. In an over-all relief program in these huge tent cities of homeless people, uncertain about the future, there was a gap in that the educational requirements of refugee children were not cared for adequately. The *Congregational Christian Service Committee* under the leadership of four American residents of Beirut and one Arab has opened 10 schools where 1,039 refugee children are enrolled. The staffs of the schools also are all Palestinian refugees.

Auxiliary services necessarily include the furnishing of food, clothing, health clinics, recreation, a library, and spiritual guidance. The Service Committee report states that "the fervent appeals for more and more schools to reduce illiteracy among the young, and the masses of refugee children on whose future horizon there looms the specter of vagrancy are eloquent testimony to the urgency of the remedial measures that must be taken to prevent the refugee community from drifting into social and moral chaos." Relief again cannot come by bread alone.

We can rightly be proud of all who have served in the Near East and are there today, in Turkey, Greece, Syria, and Lebanon, in missions of pioneering and fellowship. What they are doing is thrilling—demonstrating faith in action, without talking, without ceremony, with utmost devotion and consecration to Christian beliefs. The Near East is a strategic area. What happens there will affect the world. It is an area of tension and strife and fear—and yet of hope and faith in the future. A new way of life is emerging slowly but surely. We have a part in shaping that new life—what we do or what we fail to do is extremely important.

What Can We Do?

1. **We need an informed and praying church here at home.** Since ours is the only mission board in Turkey and Greece, we have special cause to be informed and concerned about this part of the world. A special opportunity for becoming better informed Christian citizens comes this year when the Near East is the topic for study by mission groups of all denominations. Books for every age—interesting, informing, fascinating—are reviewed in this issue of the ENVELOPE SERIES. Of outstanding help also to all program leaders are the manuals which accompany the study books. Every program chairman has available information to interest every type of group in the materials published by the Missionary Education Movement. A

whole new world will open to us through these books. Many other materials on our work in the Near East are available for study and display from our offices at 14 Beacon Street.

2. **We need young people, well trained as teachers,** who are ready to gamble their lives on the verities taught by the Master and go abroad in Christian service. Retirements of many who have served long years in our Near East Mission are coming too rapidly and we must have young, permanent replacements as well as fine teachers for short terms of three years.

3. **We need financial support for these teachers and for our institutions.** Buildings are in bad repair, if not dangerous hazards. Fees and tuition bring much support directly from the field, but our cause cannot advance without our gifts of the purse as well as of the heart. Our work in the Near East is a part of Our Christian World Mission. This is our best answer to the catastrophic problems of our day and deserves consecrated support through regular and special gifts.

4. One other essential note for us is this: **What we do here at home is important.** The Near East looks carefully at our western democracy. Our successes may become theirs; our failures they must judge also. Greater responsibility than we realize is ours to make our country one in which Christian ideals predominate. What we do here, we do for the world.

Every bit of understanding for our Mohammedan, Christian, and Jewish friends, every bit of faith in the people in the Near East we can plant this year, and every bit of faith in us which we can give to them will reward every effort. We need desperately *our "Twenty Minutes for Tolerans"*—our time, our talents, our money, in patience as things move slowly, in true brotherly kindness, unhurried help, limitless faith, generous hope, faultless love.

TWELVE BEST BOOKS

Near East

1. **Near East Panorama,** by Glora Wysner. Here with a sweep that leaves one almost breathless are the Near East countries, so many of them with new names and a completely new life. These are the lands which down through the centuries have been the bridge between the East and the West, whose history has shaped so largely the religious life of the world. These are the peoples who have spread cultures of both East and West across that bridge both ways, by trade and by fateful clashes and wars which have changed the face of history. Glora Wysner knows her Near East. She is Secretary of the International Missionary Council with special responsibility for work in "Moslem Lands." For eleven years missionary to Algeria, she knows at firsthand the problems that confront Christianity in Islam. From her wide experience she gives most interesting factual reports on life in the Near East. For us, so greatly concerned for the future of Turkey, Greece, Syria and the Lebanon in which we Congregational Christians have our own work, it is useful to see them in the wider context of the whole "Middle East." A fascinating, brightly colored map has been tipped in at the front of the book.

Paper $1.00; cloth $1.50

2. **Assignment, Near East,** by James Batal. A unique kind of missionary reading book. James Batal is a native son of the Lebanon. In 1944-1945 he returned from America, his adopted country, to the land of his fathers. What he saw and experienced there made him an enthusiast for the missionary work of Christianity. He is a newspaper man, a writer for Columbia Univer-

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ON THE THEMES FOR THIS YEAR

Toward a Christian Community

1. **Rural Prospect:** A Study of the Church and the Rural Community, by Mark Rich. This study lavishly illustrated with pictographs gives us a constructive picture of what the Church can do and is often doing to meet the whole need of the rural community. In his position as Secretary of Town and Country Work for the American Baptist Home Mission Society, Dr. Rich is in a position to put his hand on countless examples of churches with varied backgrounds and denominations which were once dying and empty but today are alive and quickened and with plans for Christian service to their neighborhood.

Paper $1.00; cloth $1.50

2. **Once There Were Two Churches,** by Fred Wentzel. Dr. Wentzel has won a place in the hearts of the American public by his artistic yet poignant reading books—*Epistle to White Christians* and *Gates of Beauty*. He has a flair for the unusual and great skill at telling stories. In this book he has a message for every American Christian and enough for every group of Church folks to think about regardless of their ages so that it will be used by many adults as well as the young people for whom it is intended. Plain folks will read with concern and response; leaders will draw on it for illustrations; young people will find meat for discussion, with suggestions for planning and action. All who read or use it will have to ask analytical questions regarding "our own church," "our community," and "our part—yours and mine." "It says a lot that every church needs to think about," is the way one reader of the manuscript has phrased it. Paper $1.00; cloth $1.75

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sity Press who of his own accord has chosen to illustrate the work of the missionaries throughout the Near East. This book is *especially prepared for young people and seniors* but will be of interest to adults as well. Paper $1.00; cloth $1.50

3. **Pearls Are Made,** by Ann M. Harrison. The author of this storybook—a novel, really—is the wife of the famous Dr. Paul Harrison of Arabia. Here she tells in her own lively fashion and from long experience the story of Donna and her brother, Hasan, with the intimate glimpses of family, school, and community life on the Persian Gulf. Of far wider interest than that of the junior highs for whom it was planned, it is beautifully written with natural and picturesque details, and of course, "they all lived happily" after the wedding which rounds off the story!
Paper $1.00; cloth $1.75

4. **They Live in Bible Lands,** by Grace W. McGavran. No writer is better known to the church reading public than Grace McGavran who has given us so many of our fine children's books published by the Friendship Press. She was born in India, and understands eastern peoples. In this book she gives seven exciting stories in the setting of seven different countries. The children of grades 4, 5, 6 will make new friends in Amin and Ali, Musa and Safia. The leaders will find colorful material which will help to interpret the past and the present of the Bible lands for our boys and girls. Paper $1.00; cloth $1.75

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3. **The Swinging Church Door,** by Louise B. Griffiths. We can guarantee that this book will be an experience for any junior high group that uses it. Louise Griffiths has already shown her skill with junior highs in three or four previous books published by the Friendship Press. In this one she combines program guide with fascinating stories, active and interesting discussion and good worship helps, but she crowns the whole with a most unusual selection of activities which any group of junior high boys and girls would love to try: interviewing; creative writing, both poetry and prose; drama; the running of a newspaper on your own community; the building of a model church; mapping and surveying the community with blueprints; making of a good bulletin board for the church; making a mural for the church; the replacing of hymnbook covers; making of "apple box sit-upons" (guess!); trips, etc. We can hardly wait to see it tried.

Paper only 60 cents

4. **The Busy Berrys,** by Frances D. Heron—illustrated by Ted Sherer. The author, herself the mother of a lively family, has presented here a family very much like her own. The Berrys move to Morrisville, a village which has been "turned up-side down" by the Plasti-Kem Company. It's a delightful and riotous story with an element of mystery and with all the problems of a community brought up for solution. Mrs. Heron has herself prepared the Teacher's Guide with suggestions and information for ten sessions with the children. Children's grades 4, 5, 6.

Paper $1.00; cloth $1.75

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5. **Junior Teacher's Guide on "Bible Lands Today,"** by Edna Baxter, Professor in Hartford School of Religious Education and frequent traveler to the Near East. We have chosen to point out this Guide here because of the rich background and information which accompany the plans, procedures and worship suggestions. Material for ten sessions in the Junior Department or for the Vacation School, Week-Day School or Extended Session.

Paper only 35 cents

6. **The Thirsty Village,** by Dorothy Blatter. Illustrated by the author who is Children's Editor in Istanbul and Art teacher of the American Academy for Girls under our own Board in Turkey. Two villages in Lebanon—one Christian and one Moslem—lived in hate and fear. Two little boys who became good friends learned together in a missionary camp the meaning of "good neighbor" as they found the way to bring the villages together. It is full of local color in the story as well as in the illustrations. For the primary children—delightful gift book as well as a group reading book. Paper $1.00; cloth $1.75

5. **The Three Henrys and Mrs. Hornicel,** by Edith J. Agnew. The author made a special trip to West Virginia to collect the material for this story about the children of a coal-mining town. The village in the "holler" makes a delightful story but almost irresistibly draws the children of grades 1, 2, 3 to want to help.
Paper $1.00; cloth $1.75

6. **Primary Teacher's Guide on "Toward a Christian Community,"** by Edith Welker. Miss Welker is one of the editors of *Thoughts of God for Boys and Girls,* widely used in children's groups. In the Primary Guide of this year, she has given us fine suggestions for worship and activity together with background material, much needed to supplement with facts the Primary reading book. Paper only 35 cents

MISSIONARY EDUCATION IS IN THE PILGRIM SERIES!

By GRACE E. STORMS

During the winter quarter, 1951, Pilgrim Series church schools will be studying "How the Church Grows," a missionary theme covering the story of Christian missions from early times to the present day. First and second graders will use "The Big Family" and primary teachers looking for material on the denominational themes, the "Near East," and "The Church in the Community" will find these emphasized in Session 10.

Third and fourth graders will use "The Story Goes Round the World," fifth and sixth graders "Our Church," and junior highs "Our Church Around the World." The senior high, young people's, and adult courses will concern themselves with ways in which our Christian church has become a world-wide fellowship.

One of the major activities for this quarter is a giving project which will make it possible for children, young people, and adults in churches all over the country to help build Christian schools around the world. The project will be introduced at a "School Days Party." The program of the party will interpret the great need for mission schools in the Near East, Japan, and among the Indians in this country as well as for new church schools in unchurched communities.

During the coming year other Pilgrim Series materials will contain missionary education resources. The winter quarter home book will suggest ways in which families can share in the missionary program of the Christian church. The weekly worship service programs in the quarterly manual will have stories related to the annual foreign and home theme. The filmstrip

"Our Church at Work Today" will tell the story of missions. *Children's Religion* will carry in its October and January issues articles, stories, and program suggestions for studying the Near East and churches in American communities.

Several additional services are being provided by the Missions Council and the Division of Christian Education this coming year. One is a poster-bulletin for children on "Building Christian Schools Around the World." One side will show a picture of our boys and girls reaching out through their church to make possible schools for boys and girls in other lands. The other side of the poster will give specific project suggestions for children and teachers. Children's leaders may secure copies of these posters from the Division of Christian Education, 14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Massachusetts, one poster for each church school department.

A leaflet for leaders on the missionary education program in the local church will also be available from the same address. The Pilgrim Fellowship missionary packet for youth groups may be secured from 14 Beacon Street or from the Division of Christian Education, 19 South LaSalle Street, Chicago 3, Illinois. Lastly, packets of resource materials are being prepared for use with some of the Pilgrim Series courses in the winter of 1951. Leaders will find directions for securing these packets in their leader's guides.

Courses, magazines, visual materials, packets, posters, special bulletins—all of these are ready to help you with your church program of missionary education this coming year. So, you see, missions really are in the Pilgrim Series!

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Background Books and Pamphlets

Introducing Islam, by J. Christy Wilson, professor of Missions at Princeton Theological Seminary. In amazingly simple terms but with profound significance, Dr. Wilson presents here the pageantry and character of the Moslem peoples with emphasis on their own religious background. From his twenty years in Iran, he makes clear with real understanding the accomplishments of these varied peoples, with stories also of several unique personalities who have found in Christianity the way for their lives and accepted that as their faith. Paper only 60 cents

What Would You Do?—When Christian Ethics Conflict with Standards on Non-Christian Culture, by Daniel J. Fleming. Those who have used with delight *Each With His Own Brush, Heritage of Beauty, The World At One in Prayer* will be glad of this new addition to the series from Professor Fleming. He raises here the problems which confront every missionary and most Christians, especially those who live abroad in business or government. The discussion in the light of conflicting traditions and varying cultures will make interesting reading and stimulating study for our American Christians. Excellent for your church or college library. Cloth only $2.25

A Torch in Japan: The Story of Michi Kawai, by W. H. Murray Walton. This little pamphlet was prepared in the light of the fact that Miss Kawai was the author of the 1950 World Day of Prayer Service. She is one of the great Christian leaders of Japan and of the World Church. Good biography material for use at any time or in any worship service, or just to read.
Paper only 35 cents

So Sure of Life, by Violet Wood—to be published in the fall of 1950. The author of *Great is the Company* gives us the thrilling

story of Robert F. Thomas, M.D., long ago missionary to Malay but for twenty-three years physician in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and the master tradesman of Pittman Community Center. Price to be announced later.

The Story of the American Negro (new and revised edition), by Ina Corinne Brown, professor of Social Anthropology at Scarritt College, author of many books on race relations. This book is a permanent source of pertinent fact material for understanding the race problem in America. It is vividly and well written by a most able anthropologist.

Paper $1.50; cloth $2.50

Forward Through the Ages, by Basil Mathews—loved author, journalist and interpreter of the World Mission of the Church. This book in the author's inimitable style gives the history of missions and the sweep of its present-day extension in all lands. It will make a "Course on Missions," or will help in the study of separate fields. Carefully indexed by countries to show its use for all themes for study, it will carry a fine collection of ways to interpret the text. Ready in the fall. Price to be announced later.

Desert Doctor: Paul Harrison of Arabia, by Constance M. Hallock. Excitingly told with the colorful details of this famous doctor's life of service. Prepared for the junior highs but interesting to all ages and good for the leader to use, read from, or review. Price 15 cents

The Whole World Singing, by Edith Lovell Thomas. A collection of 117 songs for children from 45 different countries, many of them never before published. Those who have previously used Mrs. Thomas' *Singing Worship* and *Sing, Children, Sing* will greet with joy this new collection. In large format.

Price to be announced later.

For All Leaders

Special material on the work of our Congregational Christian Churches and Boards on these themes.

From Your Church Door, by Ione Catton. Brochure for 1950-1951 on the theme "Toward a Christian Community." 25 cents

Our Church-Sponsored Community Centers. Four-page leaflet describing over-all work in these areas: Brick Rural Life School; Delmo Communities; Dorchester Coöperative Community; Fort Berthold Mission; Marion Coöperative Center; Pleasant Hill Community Center; Yuquiyu Community Center in Puerto Rico. 3 cents

Our Ministry of Healing in the Homeland. 5 cents

Two-Way Ministry—Student Summer Service. 5 cents
Leaflet describing work in the unchurched communities made possible through Student Summer Service.

Out Where the East Begins, by Marjorie Bullock Grunewald, Alford Carleton and Armstrong Hunter. Brochure for 1950-1951 on the theme "The Near East." Picture and text story of our current work in the Near East in short sections which may be read aloud at meetings or used by the leader. 25 cents

Near East Source Book. A mimeographed compilation of recent missionary letters on various subjects of interest. Useful for worship services, etc. 10 cents

Near East Handbook. A leaflet giving current facts and figures in summary. 5 cents

The Seeker, a Christmas pageant written in Turkey. 10 cents

Pictures of Our Work in Near East Mission (loaned through 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.).

11 x 14 black and white photographs representative of mission work in the Near East mounted on 16 x 20-inch cardboard.

4 x 6 prints of persons and places of our Near East Mission.

Order all of above material from Missions Council, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.; 287 Fourth Avenue, New York City; 19 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Visual Aids on Both Themes

Near East

South of the Clouds, a 16mm motion picture film in black and white, approximately 30 minutes in length, produced by Protestant Film Commission. Featuring the status of women in the Near East and the indication of how Christianity is at work attempting to help the women of the area find a new life. Narrated by a young woman and featuring the work of a junior college. Ready for use in summer.

Price to be announced later.

Let's Talk Turkey, tentative title for a color sound filmstrip dealing primarily with the work of Congregational Christians in Turkey. Available free through State Conference offices.

Toward a Christian Community

Mission to America, a new feature length film by Protestant Film Commission for interdenominational coöperating groups, presenting something of the over-all picture of the progress and needs of home missions in America today. Ready for fall use.

Possible rental $10.00

This is Delmo, a color sound filmstrip featuring the work of the Newell Stewards in building a community of the sharecropper

farmers in southeast Missouri. Available free through State Conference offices.

We Would Be Building, sound color film, story of a new church in a new community. Rental $5.00

Second Chance, important feature length sound motion picture for the fall. The story of a young couple who started life with all the ambition and desire to serve their church, to build a home wherein love and satisfaction would abide. However, due to the mismanagement of the little things of life, the drive for success to have an attractive home and so on, they came to see at the end of thirty years of living together that they had sought after something which had not brought true happiness and satisfaction in living. A great and inspirational film for use throughout the fall season especially as people re-examine their reasons for supporting the church and deepening their Christian devotion. Available free through State Conference offices.

For further information on other visual aids, send for complete listing offered by the Missions Council. Free catalog available.

Order from State Conference Office or Missions Council depositories:

287 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, New York
14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.
19 South LaSalle Street, Chicago 3, Illinois
3125 West Adams Blvd., Los Angeles 16, California
417 Old Times Bldg., Seattle, Washington

Guides for Study and Programs on This Year's Books

A Guide on "The Near East," for adults and older young people, based on *Near East Panorama* and *Introducing Islam,* by Helen E. Baker. Plans for study sessions, programs, worship and projects. Paper 35 cents

The Near East—and You—Program Guide for seniors and young people, related to *Assignment, Near East,* by Sarah W. McDowell. Source material and worship suggestions. Paper 50 cents

Where Three Continents Meet—Expanded course for junior highs and younger senior highs, by Winifred Hulbert. Comparative study of the three religions that began in the Near East: Judaism, Islam and Christianity. Source materials, worship services, for six sessions or longer study. Paper only $1.00

Junior Teacher's Guide on "Bible Lands Today," by Edna Baxter. (see page 20) Paper only 35 cents

Primary Teacher's Guide on "Bible Lands Today," by Blanche Hoke. Plans and procedures for ten sessions, with background information and suggestions for activity and worship. Paper only 35 cents

A Guide on "Toward a Christian Community," for adults and older young people, based on *Rural Prospect* and *So Sure of Life,* by Oscie Sanders. Plans for study sessions, programs, worship and projects. Paper only 35 cents

The Church and Your Community—Program Guide by Robert Tesdell. For seniors and young people, related to *Once There Were Two Churches*. Clear view of the church and its mission in its own community, together with action plans for any alert Christian group to carry out. Paper only 50 cents